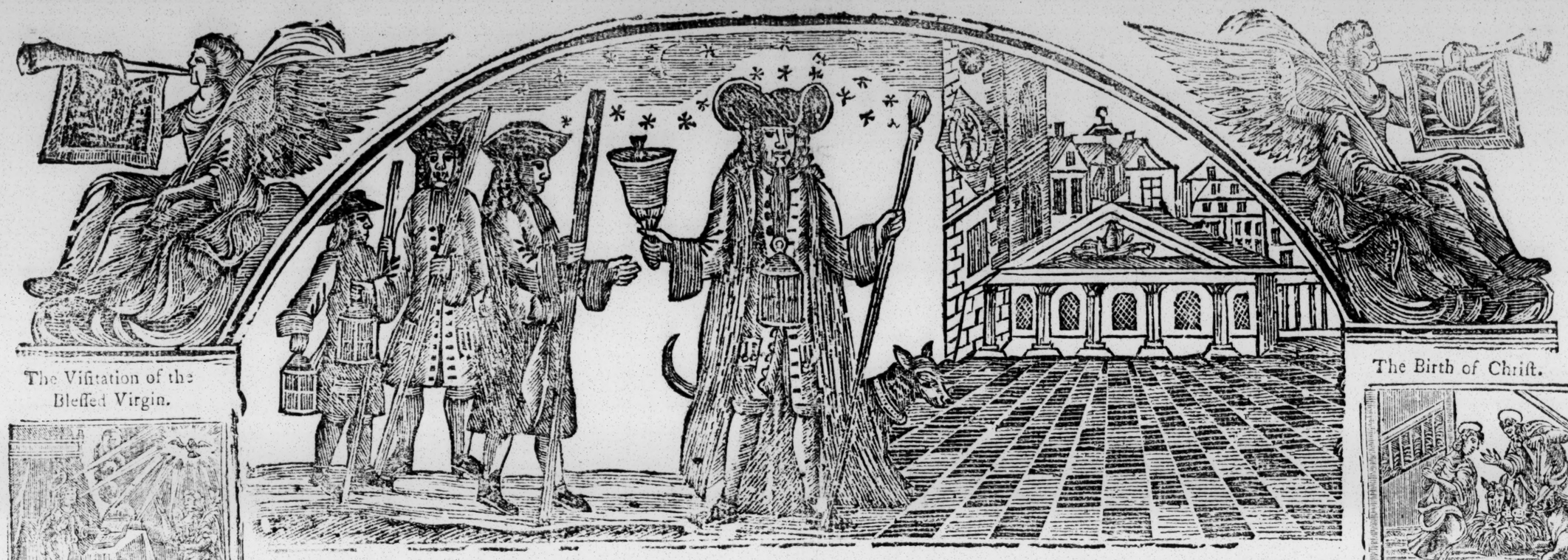
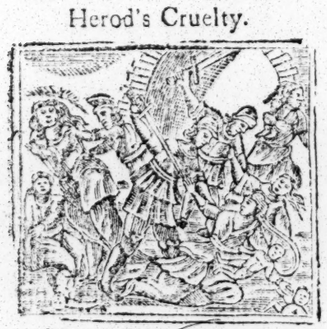


The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.

The Shepherds Worship Christ.

The Circumcision.

Herod's Cruelty.



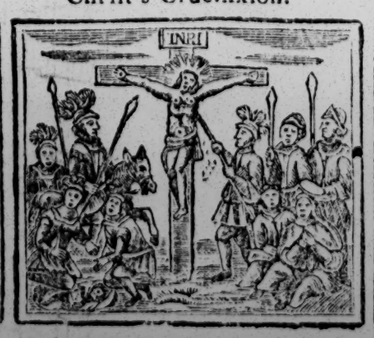
Christ tempted by Satan in the Wilderness.

The Marriage in Cana.

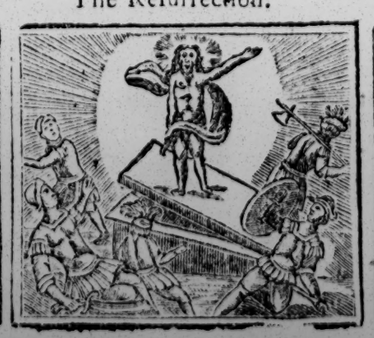
The Lord's Supper.

Judas Betrays Christ.

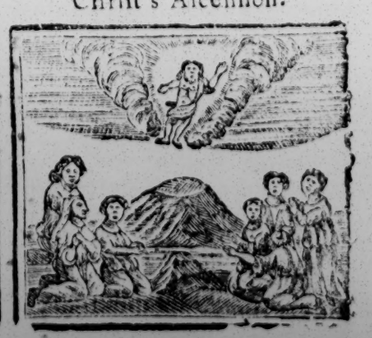
Peter denies Christ.



Christ's Crucifixion.



The Resurrection.



Christ's Ascension.

The Birth of Christ.

The Wise Mens Offering.

Joseph's Flight into Egypt.

Christ Baptized by John the Baptist.

Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem.

Stephen Stoned.

A COPY of VERSES humbly presented to all my worthy Masters and Mistresses In the Parish of St. Mary, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk,

By *Thomas Palfry*, Bellman.

PROLOGUE.

AGAIN, kind Sirs, your Bellman does appear,
Who brings his Tribute each revolving Year;
Hoping that you will take a friendly View,
Of what he's now been able for to do;
You'll not behold it with a Critic's Eye,
For then you many Faults must needs espy,
But read them with the Candour of a Friend,
Tell me my Faults, and I, perhaps, may mend.

On St. Michael.

WHEN the Apostate Angels did rebel,
And, for Presumption, from their Glory fell,
They by St. Michael and his Host were driv'n
For ever, from the glorious View of Heav'n;
Never their former Station to attain,
But in perpetual Darkness to remain,
There to lament in Pain, and never die,
But mourn their wretched Fate eternally.

On St. Luke.

IN good St. Luke three Characters exist—
Physician, Painter, and Evangelist.
With Grace repleniſh'd he spent all his Days,
In wide diffusing his Redeemer's Praise;
Fam'd for the Gospel Truths, his Works set forth,
A Fund of rare invaluable Worth.
He is the Patron of all those that paint;
And, wou'd to God, each Painter was a Saint!

On St. Andrew.

ST. Andrew was with holy Zeal inspir'd,
Whose steady Faith by Christians is admir'd,
The greatest Tortures Tyrants could invent,
He with uncommon Patience underwent:
Bound to the Cross, three Days from thence he preach'd,
And the right Way to Unbelievers teach'd;
Not all their Terrors could his Peace controul,
He lost his Body to preserve his Soul.

On St. Thomas.

ST. Thomas, tho' he heard the Holy Word,
Question'd the Resurrection of our Lord,
Yet he, on his Repentance was forgiv'n,
Which shews, if Sinners would apply to Heav'n,
And humbly beg Forgiveness, they will find
Our great Redeemer merciful and kind.
From this good Saint we all may learn to know,
What feeble Mortals we are here below.

On Christmas Eve.

BELIEVE me, Maids, all Things look very well;
Oh! what a charming and delicious Smell
Is here of Tarts and Pies, by which I see,
This surely will a merry Christmas be;
The Spits adorn'd with roast Beef, and such Chear,
The Cellars full of Ale and humming Beer,
All Things in Order plac'd, and fitted to
The Mirth and Pastime which will soon ensue.

On Christmas Day.

CHEAR up, fond Soul; no longer be dismayed;
Thy Saviour's born, and in a Manger laid.
See! how the Shepherds in Confusion run,
To view the Wonders their great God had done:
Behold the Eastern Wise-men Offerings bring,
And Kings bow down before our heavenly King.
Oh! endless Love, which nothing can exceed,
To save vile Sinners, must our Saviour bleed?

On St. Stephen.

WHAT Tongue can speak it, or what Pen can paint,
The Sufferings of this holy martyr'd Saint?
Whom no dread Threats, nor even Death could move,
His Thoughts so firmly fix'd on Joys above:
Tho' bruis'd to Death, was not the least dismay'd,
And as his Life decreas'd, the more he pray'd;
To his great God he only made his Moans,
And bless'd his Murderers with his dying Groans.

On St. John.

ST. John, the cruel Jews did so enrage,
That nothing but his Death could them assuage:
They all the Apostles strove to crucify,
But yet St. John escap'd their Tyranny;
And seeing they were all with Malice fir'd,
He to an unfrequented Isle retir'd,
Where in calm Solitude his Days he spent,
Till Death releas'd him from his Banishment.

On Innocents Day.

HEROD! what Harm had [illegible] done?
But 'twas, 'tis plain, to [illegible] by Son:
Was there no Sacrifice but He?
The Lord of Light, that came to set us free?
Surely, vile Wretch! thy Sins were too complete,
To hope for Mercy at the Judgment Seat.
The faithful Worms thy Body shall consume,
As a Prediction of thy future Doom.

On New-Year's Day.

WITH what swift Haste the Motion of the Sun,
Has round the Globe his annual Circuit run?
Such fleeting Speed admits of no Delay,
Neither can we his circling Progress stay.
How bless'd is he who does his Years employ
So well, that he can view past Time with Joy;
And as the Pangs of cruel Death increase,
May with great Courage look Him in the Face.

On Twelfth Day.

VIRGINS and Youths that come, and merry make,
Do not blame me whatever list you take:
'Tis all a Chance. This Time a Fair may strut
A Queen, that was the last a downright Slut;
But whether Slut or Queen you lap to be,
I pray you all still to remember me;
And whosoe'er shall give me but a Cut,
I'll honour as a Queen, altho' a Slut.

On the King.

HAPPY, great George, with every Gift endu'd,
To make a Nation happy if they wou'd:
May he improve the Power Heav'n has lent,
And may his Subjects ever be content.
Let him have Wisdom given from above,
His Councils too united be in Love.
When Death shall take him to eternal Rest,
May he remain for ever with the Bless'd.

On the Queen.

OUR gracious Queen is now well-known to be
The Mother of a num'rous Progeny;
O may they all alike from her inherit
Each princely Virtue, with her gracious Spirit;
And may she live to form each tender Mind,
To be a public Blessing to Mankind.
What Veneration! what complete Applause!
From all Mankind the great Example draws.

To my Masters.

ALL Servants ought to pay a due Respect
To their Superiors, therefore no Neglect
Shall e'er be found in me, I do declare;
And thus, kind Masters, with a constant Care,
I'll serve you all, either by Day or Night,
Obeying your Commands with much Delight;
Not altogether for the Hope of Gain,
But through Respect, which shall till Death remain.

To my Mistresses.

LADIES, th' Advice of your poor Bellman mind,
From which true Joy and Comfort you will find:
Your Love exert unto your Consorts dear,
Provide for them, and they'll afford you Chear;
Each strive to please the other Night and Day,
Thus Years and Hours will sweetly pass away.
Mistress, your Duty never fail to do,
And then my Master never will fail you.

To the Young Men.

YOUNG Men, if you a Blessing fain would find,
Fear the Lord; his Precepts bear in Mind:
Keep his Commands while in your blooming Youth,
And guide your Footsteps by the Word of Truth:
Honour your Parents; see that you are Just
In every Thing committed to your Trust;
And, while you live, do all the Good you can,
So shall you gain the Love of God and Man.

To the Maids.

MY pretty Maids, of charming Beauty bright,
You shall not say that I'll forget you quite;
Good Counsel unto you I freely send,
Receive it as a Kindness from a Friend;
Be sure, be Virtuous; learn good Housewifery;
Then when young Bachelors the same shall see,
They will come courting to you all so fast
To Wed, that you may sing the Worst is past.

On Crispin.

NOW gentle Crispin on the Craftsmen calls,
And bids them lay aside their Ends and Awls,
And spend the fleeting Hours in harmless Mirth,
Which gave their royal Patron, Crispin, Birth;
For should you now in Business take a Part,
'Twould be a Scandal to your noble Art.
Then fill your Glasses—drink without Complaint—
All hail the Mem'ry of this jovial Saint.

The Bellman's Prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, and his most precious Son,
To whom we all for our Protection run,
Bless this our Land, and make it's Wealth encrease,
And grant the British Isle a lasting Peace.
Bless every One, the Sinner and the Saint,
That Heav'n doth own, without a grievous Taint.
Make Envy cease, nor Foes our Trade molest;
Each Man his Calling mind, then he'll be bless'd.

EPILOGUE.

MY Sheet now done, it is my humble Pray'r,
That, for the Author, you the Muse will spare;
Nor take this humble Off'ring with Disdain,
The poor Production of your Servant's Brain.
Had Heav'n endow'd me with poetic Skill,
And dipt in Helicon my feeble Quill,
In lofty Strains I would this Present make,
Fitting for me to give, and you to take.

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